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OCI No. 1112/66

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
12 March 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 12:00 A.M. EST)

25X1 [redacted] there is some public unrest continuing in I Corps over the dismissal of General Thi.

2. A brief, unconfirmed press report has stated that students demonstrating against the removal of I Corps commander General Thi today assumed control of government radio stations in Hué and Hoi An the capitals of Thua Thien and Quang Nam provinces, respectively.

3. A second US wire service report stated that an estimated 2,000 soldiers, students, and adult Vietnamese today staged an orderly demonstration in the city of Da Nang demanding the reinstatement of General Thi.

4. Earlier official reports, indicating that a second public meeting of the "Civil and Military Struggle Committee of I Corps" had been scheduled in Da Nang today, tend to substantiate one second wire service account. Observers at the first such demonstration yesterday in Da Nang estimated that there were approximately 1,500 in attendance.

5. There has been no change reported in the political situation in Saigon during the past four hours.

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OCI No. 1115/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
12 March 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 8:00 A.M. EST)

1. A US Embassy summary of today's events in I Corps, extending at least into the afternoon hours Vietnam time, confirmed public protest activities today in Da Nang, Hué, and Hoi An.

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[redacted] described the situation in I Corps as quiet in the afternoon hours, but noted that further attempts at political agitation could be expected in the area.

2. There was no confirmation or denial of the seizure by students of radio stations in Hué or Hoi An as carried in today's press. However, it was noted that exaggerated rumors of the situation in I Corps were circulating among members of the press in Saigon.

3. According to the summary, the crowd attending this morning's protest meeting in Da Nang was estimated at between 3,000 and 5,000, as compared to an estimated gathering of 1,500 for the first meeting held there yesterday. A successful school strike was apparently held in Da Nang as well. Schools were also reported closed in Hué, where some 500-1,000 students moved through the streets but without generating any other support among adult residents. A smaller meeting for General Thi was also held in Hoi An; the size of the gathering was not available.

4. There were no developments in the Saigon area (listed on the embassy's summary) today. As reported earlier, General Thi may be escorted to

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Da Nang today, but this apparently is still tentative. According to unconfirmed press reports, Buddhist leaders meeting in Saigon today issued a statement calling for the reinstatement of General Thi. No further details are available.

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